

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:283

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004

DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES

Meghwal Shri Kailash;Patil Shri Prakash V.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the districts affected by drought this year in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the normal and actual rainfall and shortfall noticed during the last three months, State-wise;
- (c) the percentage of Kharif crop loss in the said districts and population affected as a result thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the names of the States visited by the central team for the purpose;
- (e) the details of recommendations made by the team;
- (f) the assistance sought by each State, the actual amount released and foodgrains provided to each State;
- (g) whether the Government have chalked out any strategy to deal with drought situation in future; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 283 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16TH AUGUST, 2004.

(a) to (h): The over-all rainfall position for the period May to July in States reporting drought during 2003-2004 and States facing rainfall deficiency in July 2004 is at Annexure.

After deficit rains in many parts of the country around 28th July when the country had a cumulative rainfall deficit of - 15%, there is a significant improvement in the situation with the revival of South-West Monsoon which will remain active till the end of September. Similarly, kharif sowing is still in progress. States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana after serious deficit of rains have experienced considerable improvements in the last two weeks. Rains have also been received in other States. Even in Rajasthan, much improvement is in evidence following widespread rains in the first two weeks of August, causing large-scale sowing and re-sowing operations to commence in these States. As such it would be pre mature to categorise any of the districts as drought affected, having losses of kharif.

Interim demands raised by Governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat at a time when a serious drought was apprehended, therefore, require reconsideration of the State Governments concerned, in the light of the changed situation. Agriculture Secretary has undertaken visits along with a team of officials to some of the States with serious rainfall deficits to make a preliminary assessment of the situation and to discuss contingent arrangements only.

In order, however, to enable these States to initially deal with any difficulties the following amounts have been released in August to their Calamity Relief Funds:

STATE AMOUNT (Rs. in crores)

Andhra Pradesh	45.14
Gujarat	73.57
Haryana	37.06
Madhya Pradesh	28.55
Maharashtra	71.65
Rajasthan	94.35
Punjab	55.93

Uttar Pradesh 66.68
Jharkhand # 25.84

TOTAL 498.77

= Recommended for release.

Besides, allocation of 1 lakh MTs. of foodgrains to Rajasthan and 0.50 lakh MTs. for Madhya Pradesh has been approved to initiate generation of relief employment wherever it may be necessary. Railways are now providing transport of drinking water in Rajasthan free of cost.

Government is keeping a close watch on the situation at the highest level and is in close touch with the State Governments concerned. Cabinet Secretary has discussed preparatory measures to deal with any eventualities with the State Governments. Central Government is committed to provide all the requisite assistance as the situation may warrant.

Statement indicating month-wise position of rainfall in States facing rainfall deficits in July 2004.

(Rainfall in mm)

Sl. No.	State/UT	May-04	June-04	July-04						
		Actual	Normal	Dep%	Actual	Normal	Dep%	Actual	Normal	Dep%
1	Andhra Pradesh	114.3	55.4	+106	68.3	104.9	-35	173.9	157.6	+10
2	Gujarat	8.5	4.6	+85	11.5	98.5	+13	85.3	243.2	-65
3	Haryana	67.6	14.3	+373	70.0	42.3	+65	13.0	154.1	-92
4	Karnataka	212.8	108.6	+96	199.4	193.3	+3	166.5	253.3	-34
5	Jharkhand	52.6	48.9	+8	173.9	193.2	-10	161.2	305.1	-47
6	Madhya Pradesh	11.6	8.2	+41	129.8	123.6	+5	156.1	301.0	-48
7	Maharashtra	19.9	22.8	-13	204.3	199.3	+3	196.9	311.3	-37
8	Punjab	43.8	16.6	+164	52.4	41.6	+26	53.1	168.7	-69
9	Rajasthan	13.8	11.6	+19	32.0	41.7	-23	40.9	141.2	-71
10	Tamilnadu	273.8	78.8	+247	39.3	41.6	-6	64.6	64.5	0
11	Uttar Pradesh	54.0	15.7	+244	130.8	90.3	+45	162.3	264.0	-39